

Are you looking for specific passport information, curious about the new regulations, or currently having trouble obtaining your passport? The Office of Congressman **Ciro D. Rodriguez** is here to help!

Perhaps you have important business abroad. Perhaps you would like to visit family. Or maybe you just want to travel the world. Whatever your reason for traveling outside the United States, you will most likely need a passport. We understand that the passport request process can be a bit long and involved, so here are so quick tips we've collected to help you through the process.

### **- When do I need a passport?**

Traveling to and from most foreign countries requires a valid passport. You can obtain a passport at one of the more than [8,000 accepting facilities throughout the country](#). You will need two photographs of yourself, proof of U.S. citizenship, and a valid form of photo identification (i.e. driver's license, state ID).

Even without the backlog, problems often faced by applicants include forgotten signatures and incorrectly completed forms. To avoid a rejected request, which would require you to file a new application, make sure you completely and accurately fill out your form, including all necessary signatures.

### **- How long will it take to get a passport?**

Passport requests typically take 10-12 weeks to process (expedited processing is available for an additional fee). Keep in mind that the Department of State is facing a high demand for passports, and processing your request may take longer than the typical 10-12 weeks.

**Unfortunately for many travelers, seasonal delays have been compounded seriously because of significant backlogs of requests.**

This backlog is largely due to the government's new passport requirement for land travel to Canada and Mexico. As of January 2008, all persons traveling to Canada and Mexico from the United States by land will be required to present a valid passport. To ease some of the backlog pressure, **the requirement that U.S. passports be used for citizens flying to and from Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda has been temporarily lifted.**

**How do I check the status of my passport application or get more information?**

Once you have submitted an application, [you can check the status online here](#) .

If you need further information, please visit the U.S. Department of State's [passport website at http://travel.state.gov/passport.](#)

**Still having trouble with your passport? Call the Office of Congressman Rodriguez for help!**

Contact our office tollfree: 1-866-915-3493